

## Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CI, SW

SUBJECT: DAVIS CUP MATCHES IN SWEDEN BEGIN UNDER HEAVY GUARD

REF: SANTIAGO 6345

1. SEMI-FINALS OF DAVIS CUP TOURNAMENT BEGAN TODAY (SEPT. 19) IN THE SOUTHWESTERN COASTAL TOWN OF BASTAD UNDER THE PROTECTION OF A HEAVILY REINFORCED POLICE GUARD OF APPROXIMATELY 1300 MEN. THE MATCHES HAVE AROUSED INTENSE PUBLIC AND PRESS INTEREST IN RECENT WEEKS, BOTH BECAUSE OF EFFORTS OF VARIOUS GROUPS OPPOSED TO THE CHILEAN MILITARY REGIME TO PREVENT THEIR TAKING PLACE, AND BECAUSE OF THE GENERAL SWEDISH INTEREST IN TENNIS, STIMULATED BY THE SUCCESSES OF SWEDISH TENNIS STAR BJORN BORG. SUSPENSE HAS BEEN HEIGHTENED BY REPORTED THREATS AGAINST THE LIFE OF CHILEAN PLAYER JAIME FILLOL AS WELL AS OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CHILEAN TEAM.

2. ON SEPT. 19, A CROWD ESTIMATED AT BETWEEN TWO TO THREE

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THOUSAND PERSONS PARTICIPATED IN A RALLY AND TORCH LIGHT

PROCESSION IN BASTAD EXPRESSING THEIR OPPOSITION TO THE PINOCHET GOVERNMENT. THE RALLY WAS ORGANIZED BY THE GOVERNING SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY, AND WAS ADDRESSED BY FORMER PRIME MINISTER TAGE ERLANDER, FORMER AMBASSADOR TO CHILE HARALD EDELSTAM (NOW SWEDISH AMBASSADOR TO ALGERIA), SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC YOUTH LEADER LARS ENGQVIST, AND JOSE RIQUELM, IDENTIFIED AS CHAIRMAN OF THE SALVADOR ALLENDE COMMITTEE. IN AN APPARENT EFFORT TO EXERT A MODERATING INFLUENCE ON ANTI-JUNTA EXTREMISTS FAVORING VIOLENCE, ERLANDER PLAYED DOWN THE MATCHES' SIGNIFICANCE. WHILE ASSERTING THAT "IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER IF THE TENNIS MATCHES HAD NOT BEEN ARRANGED IN SWEDEN," ERLANDER POINTED OUT THAT SINCE THE TENNIS ASSOCIATION HAD FELT IT NECESSARY TO FULFILL ITS INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS, "IT SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO DO SO."

3. MORE THREATENING TO PUBLIC ORDER ARE THE DEMONSTRATIONS SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY AND SUNDAY BY THE SO-CALLED "STOP THE MATCH COMMITTEE," COMPOSED OF VARIOUS RADICAL GROUPS, INCLUDING ANUMBER OF THE 800-ODD CHILEANS WHO FLED TO SWEDEN AFTER THE FALL OF THE ALLENDE GOVERNMENT. SOME OF THIS LATTER GROUP ARE MILITANT, HARD-CORE COMMUNISTS, AND COULD POSE A GREATER PROBLEM TO POLICE THAN THE USUALLY CONTROLLABLE SWEDES.

4. COMMENT: THE GOVERNMENT, WHICH HAD ORIGINALLY HOPED THAT THE MATCHES WOULD BE MOVED FROM SWEDEN WHEN THE THREAT OF DEMONSTRATIONS BECAME APPARENT, IS OBVIOUSLY EMBARRASSED BY THE CURRENT FUROR AND PARTICULARLY THE POSSIBILITY OF VIOLENCE IN BASTAD. WHEN THE TENNIS ASSOCIATION INSISTED THAT THE MATCHES BE HELD AS SCHEDULED IN BASTAD, THE RULING SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY MOVED TO TAKE OVER LEADERSHIP OF THE CAMPAIGN AND THUS AVOID THE POSSIBILITY OF REAL TROUBLE IN BASTAD. LAST NIGHT'S DEMONSTRATION, HELD THE NIGHT BEFORE THE MATCHES, WAS AN EFFORT TO LET OFF STEAM AND TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON THE CURRENT CHILEAN REGIME RATHER THAN ON THE TENNIS MATCHES THEMSELVES.

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